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WESTERN INFORMATION OFFICE: San Francisco, Calif.

Technical information: (415) 625-2270 BLSinfoSF@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/west

Media contact: (415) 625-2270

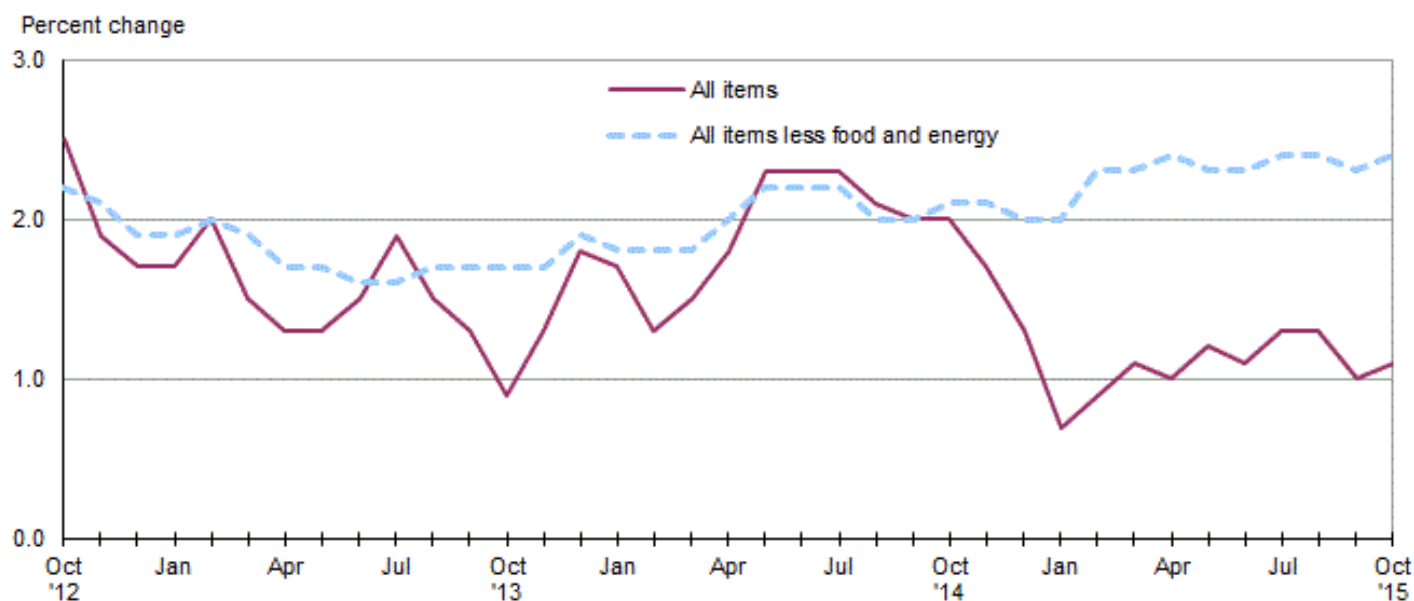
## Consumer Price Index, West Region — October 2015

**Area prices were unchanged over the past month, up 1.1 percent from a year ago**

Prices in the West Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), were unchanged in October, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) The two expenditure categories with the largest opposing effects were lower gasoline prices and higher shelter prices. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U advanced 1.1 percent. (See [chart 1](#).) This marks the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive month in which consumer prices rose by less than 2.0 percent on an annual basis in the West. Energy prices dropped 13.9 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.4 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, West region, October 2012–October 2015**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### Food

Food prices advanced 0.4 percent for the month of October. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food at home increased 0.5 percent, and prices for food away from home rose 0.3 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 2.0 percent. Prices for food away from home rose 3.3 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home advanced 1.1 percent.

## Energy

The energy index decreased 4.7 percent over the month. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-8.5 percent). Prices for electricity declined 0.6 percent, and prices for natural gas service declined 0.3 percent in the same period.

Energy prices dropped 13.9 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-23.1 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service decreased 3.8 percent, while prices for electricity advanced 0.4 percent during the past year.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.4 percent in October. Higher prices for medical care (1.0 percent), apparel (0.7 percent), and shelter (0.4 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for new and used motor vehicles (-0.7 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.4 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (4.3 percent) and medical care (3.4 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in apparel (-2.0 percent) and household furnishings and operations (-0.1 percent).

**Table A. West Region CPI-U monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)**

Month	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January.....	0.3	1.9	0.5	1.4	0.4	2.6	0.3	1.7	0.3	1.7	-0.3	0.7
February .....	0.1	1.4	0.6	1.9	0.4	2.5	0.8	2.0	0.4	1.3	0.6	0.9
March .....	0.3	1.6	0.9	2.6	0.9	2.4	0.4	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.8	1.1
April .....	0.2	1.5	0.6	3.0	0.2	2.1	0.0	1.3	0.3	1.8	0.3	1.0
May.....	0.1	1.3	0.3	3.2	0.2	2.0	0.2	1.3	0.6	2.3	0.8	1.2
June.....	-0.1	0.6	-0.2	3.1	-0.2	2.0	0.1	1.5	0.1	2.3	0.0	1.1
July .....	0.1	0.8	-0.1	2.9	-0.3	1.8	0.0	1.9	0.1	2.3	0.3	1.3
August .....	0.1	0.7	0.2	3.0	0.5	2.1	0.1	1.5	-0.1	2.1	-0.1	1.3
September.....	-0.1	0.5	0.4	3.5	0.5	2.2	0.2	1.3	0.1	2.0	-0.2	1.0
October.....	0.1	0.6	0.0	3.4	0.4	2.5	-0.1	0.9	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.1
November .....	0.0	0.9	-0.2	3.2	-0.7	1.9	-0.4	1.3	-0.6	1.7		
December.....	0.2	1.3	-0.3	2.7	-0.5	1.7	0.0	1.8	-0.5	1.3		

**The November 2015 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released on December 15, 2015.**

## Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17\\_a.htm](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm).

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The West Region covered in this release is comprised of the following thirteen states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

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**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015	Oct. 2014	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All Items.....	244.737	244.257	244.341	1.1	-0.2	0.0
All items (December 1977=100).....	395.603	394.827	394.963			
Food and beverages .....	249.795	251.284	252.442	2.0	1.1	0.5
Food .....	250.045	251.679	252.711	2.0	1.1	0.4
Food at home .....	249.825	250.337	251.638	1.1	0.7	0.5
Food away from home.....	249.125	252.334	252.981	3.3	1.5	0.3
Alcoholic beverages .....	243.187	242.815	245.569	1.3	1.0	1.1
Housing .....	256.383	256.858	257.502	3.5	0.4	0.3
Shelter .....	289.532	290.375	291.392	4.3	0.6	0.4
Rent of primary residence <sup>(1)</sup> .....	302.665	304.138	305.692	4.5	1.0	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of residences <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	303.446	304.697	305.840	4.3	0.8	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	303.428	304.680	305.821	4.3	0.8	0.4
Fuels and utilities.....	284.512	282.573	281.656	1.0	-1.0	-0.3
Household energy .....	249.042	246.425	245.478	-0.9	-1.4	-0.4
Energy services <sup>(1)</sup> .....	251.895	249.137	247.731	-0.6	-1.7	-0.6
Electricity <sup>(1)</sup> .....	276.609	273.994	272.223	0.4	-1.6	-0.6
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>(1)</sup> .....	208.891	205.615	204.989	-3.8	-1.9	-0.3
Household furnishings and operations .....	128.751	129.091	129.160	-0.1	0.3	0.1
Apparel .....	117.732	120.484	121.277	-2.0	3.0	0.7
Transportation .....	209.616	202.729	198.551	-6.5	-5.3	-2.1
Private transportation .....	204.559	197.316	192.229	-6.7	-6.0	-2.6
New and used motor vehicles <sup>(3)</sup> .....	102.268	101.089	100.417	-0.2	-1.8	-0.7
New vehicles .....	146.327	145.397	145.919	0.4	-0.3	0.4
New cars and trucks <sup>(3) (4)</sup> .....	101.674	101.011	101.336	0.4	-0.3	0.3
New cars <sup>(4)</sup> .....	145.475	144.298	145.050	-0.6	-0.3	0.5
Used cars and trucks.....	146.008	143.520	140.675	-2.1	-3.7	-2.0
Motor fuel .....	261.905	234.267	214.565	-23.3	-18.1	-8.4
Gasoline (all types).....	261.539	233.713	213.808	-23.1	-18.3	-8.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>(4)</sup> .....	259.528	231.321	211.165	-23.7	-18.6	-8.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>(4) (5)</sup> .....	249.585	223.986	205.851	-21.4	-17.5	-8.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>(4)</sup> .....	252.389	228.034	210.479	-20.7	-16.6	-7.7
Medical Care .....	451.436	451.886	456.524	3.4	1.1	1.0
Medical care commodities.....	344.317	345.296	343.522	3.4	-0.2	-0.5
Medical care services.....	485.294	485.524	492.647	3.4	1.5	1.5
Professional services .....	338.330	338.484	338.351	1.9	0.0	0.0
Recreation <sup>(3)</sup> .....	110.834	110.837	111.405	1.0	0.5	0.5
Education and communication <sup>(3)</sup> .....	138.013	138.557	138.708	0.1	0.5	0.1
Other goods and services .....	401.912	403.489	405.842	1.6	1.0	0.6
<b>Commodity and Service Group</b>						
All Items.....	244.737	244.257	244.341	1.1	-0.2	0.0
Commodities .....	182.356	180.903	179.745	-2.4	-1.4	-0.6
Commodities less food & beverages.....	148.236	145.620	143.546	-5.3	-3.2	-1.4
Nondurables less food & beverages .....	189.788	184.817	180.618	-8.0	-4.8	-2.3
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel .....	240.400	230.238	222.666	-10.0	-7.4	-3.3
Durables .....	109.871	109.394	109.252	-0.8	-0.6	-0.1
Services.....	302.133	302.596	303.877	3.2	0.6	0.4
Rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....	308.020	308.923	310.015	4.3	0.6	0.4

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015	Oct. 2014	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015
Transportation services .....	281.861	281.341	283.241	1.2	0.5	0.7
Other services .....	336.534	337.624	338.900	1.5	0.7	0.4
<b>Special aggregate indexes:</b>						
All items less medical care .....	235.232	234.717	234.618	0.9	-0.3	0.0
All items less food .....	244.096	243.279	243.213	1.0	-0.4	0.0
All items less shelter .....	227.850	226.802	226.489	-0.6	-0.6	-0.1
Commodities less food .....	151.914	149.348	147.405	-5.0	-3.0	-1.3
Nondurables .....	220.190	218.196	216.464	-2.8	-1.7	-0.8
Nondurables less food .....	193.957	189.237	185.433	-7.3	-4.4	-2.0
Nondurables less food and apparel .....	240.299	231.093	224.525	-8.9	-6.6	-2.8
Services less rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....	328.848	328.787	330.462	1.9	0.5	0.5
Services less medical care services .....	289.332	289.806	290.741	3.2	0.5	0.3
Energy .....	258.734	242.168	230.777	-13.9	-10.8	-4.7
All items less energy .....	245.659	246.393	247.346	2.4	0.7	0.4
All items less food and energy .....	245.663	246.242	247.185	2.4	0.6	0.4
Commodities less food and energy commodities .....	139.901	140.306	140.428	-0.6	0.4	0.1
Energy commodities .....	265.451	237.970	218.688	-23.0	-17.6	-8.1
Services less energy services .....	306.093	306.763	308.219	3.4	0.7	0.5

**Footnotes**

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.